



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School



Educating Women of the Future



“Strong relationships are found throughout the school....behaviour is good and the school is a very safe place.”

Ofsted



## WELCOME TO QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GIRLS' SCHOOL

Thank you for taking a considered interest in our school. Here at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School in Barnet, founded in 1888, we have a strong tradition of excellence. Our vision for the future is quite simply to continue to develop our school to be sustainably outstanding; an inspiring school, at the forefront of girls' secondary education.

Students and staff are proud to be a vibrant part of our learning community. We encourage the development of each girl's inner resources, so that she acquires the wisdom and integrity to make positive choices in a rapidly changing world. Most importantly, girls leave our school as well-qualified, confident, caring and happy members of their community, equipped to be capable of supporting themselves financially and contributing economically and socially to wider communities.

Having been a student at the school myself from 1969 and then returning here to complete my PGCE training as a mathematics teacher, it is very exciting to return once more, to lead the school in its continuing development.

I strongly believe that all students are individuals; each should pursue excellence and develop their talents in academic, creative, physical and social skills. Collectively we are a community. Students and staff at our school have a love of learning; a process which is constant, regardless of time or place. For students that means an environment in which their education can flourish and be enjoyed not just as a means to good academic results but as an interest for life, nurtured by the school's commitment to provide the girls with access to a full range of study and enrichment experiences. For staff that means an environment where they can develop professionally and excel in their practice.

Academically and pastorally, the school is consistently strong. Our girls build enduring friendships; they benefit from excellent facilities including many acres of grounds with a series of swales and a wetland habitat for wildlife which also provide an enriching outdoor learning experience, a multi-purpose gym and dance studio, a sports hall, an indoor swimming pool, five tennis courts and extensive playing fields.

I hope that the information in our prospectus and further information on our website, will support your visit, to confirm Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School as the school of choice for your daughter. I look forward to welcoming you to our school.

*Violet Walker*

Mrs Violet Walker  
Headteacher



“So proud to know that one of the girls is moving on from the Sixth Form to study at Cambridge University. A number of her friends are moving on to study medicine at Russell Group universities. Really, all the girls have met their potential and many have achieved far beyond that at QEGS.”

Parents



“I never believed I could achieve so highly.  
The staff have inspired me to excel.”

Student

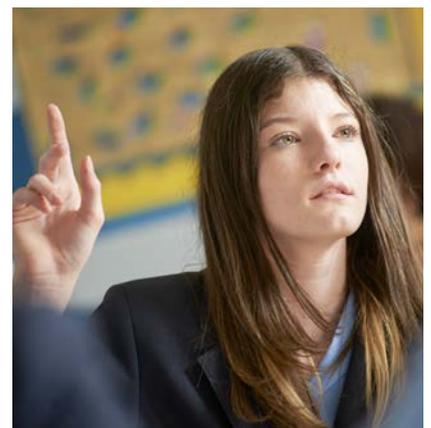
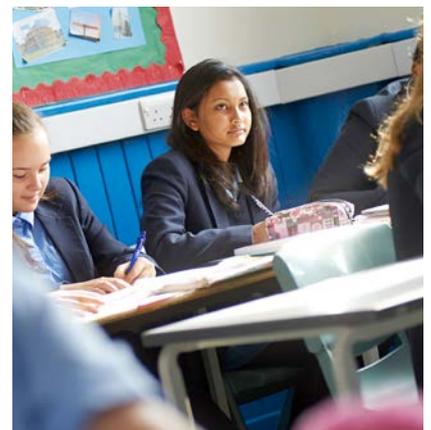
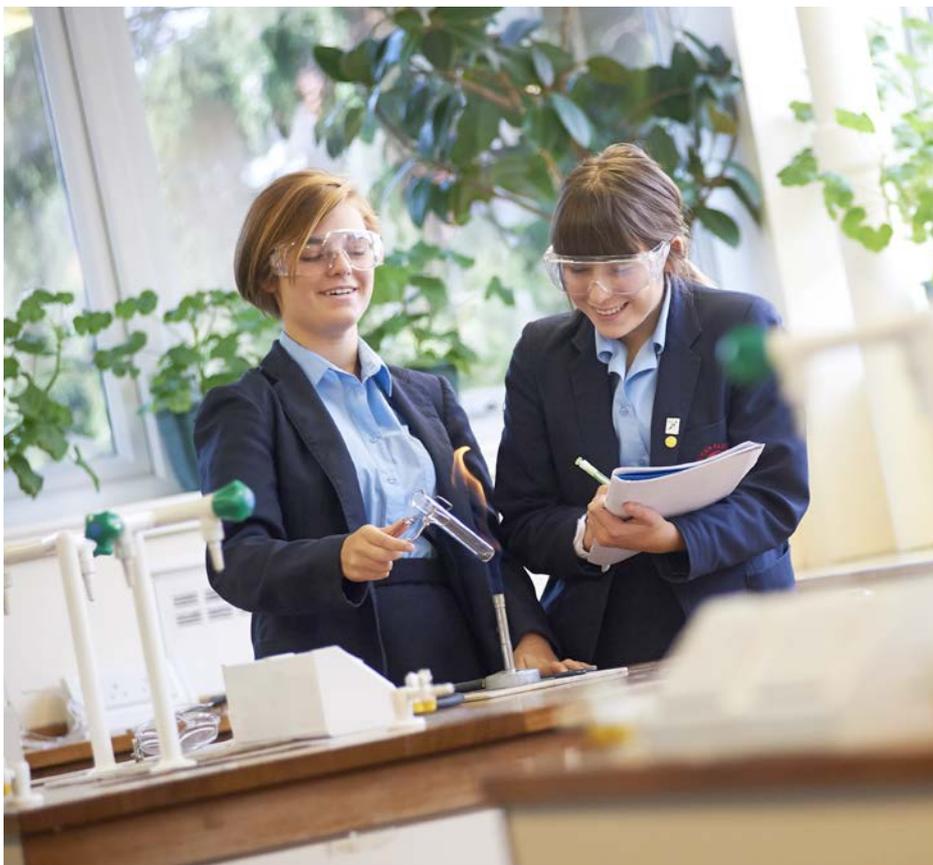
## Innovating a CURRICULUM FOR OUR TIME

Our curriculum is designed to challenge the girls, to support them in their education to acquire knowledge and understanding and also to develop their skills and flexibility so that they can participate confidently in the rapidly changing and increasingly technological society of the 21st century.

Our girls are expected to show an increased maturity and a growing sense of responsibility for their own work and progress so that they develop as resilient and self-reliant young women. The broad and balanced curriculum offers girls a wide platform of learning opportunities to facilitate excellent outcomes and to foster an excitement about learning for its own sake.

For the first three years, all the girls study a broad range of subjects which includes English, mathematics, science, history, geography, modern foreign languages, design and technology, art and design, music, physical education, computing, religious studies and drama. Personal, social, health (including sex and relationships education) and economic education, citizenship and mindfulness programmes complement the curriculum and encourage wide discussion to support the girls' personal and social development.

At KS4 there is an emphasis on academic subjects, GCSE core and foundation, with some flexibility to enable students to develop particular aptitudes and interests. Girls study English and English Literature, mathematics and the individual sciences or dual award. The majority of girls study at least one modern foreign language and either history or geography with an expressive art and technology subject completing their course of study. Girls also follow examined subjects in IT and religious studies. The core curriculum in KS4 includes non-examined study in PE and PSHE including citizenship. Vocational courses are also offered at KS4. Girls are guided towards progression pathways aligned with their future aspiration, aptitudes and talents; pathways that will ensure personal satisfaction and qualifications of integrity.





## Complementing our Curriculum

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school offers a varied programme of activities which run alongside the taught curriculum. Such activities complement the taught curriculum and extend the learning, engagement, and personal development of our students. For this reason these activities are highly valued. They take place during the break for lunch or after school and are often the result of student initiatives, developed through interests and enthusiasm and often led by the students themselves.

Clubs are offered in a wide range of sports; our teams regularly compete with other schools in the borough and also in competitions further afield.

Music, dance, drama and art contribute to a vibrant and energetic programme of activities in the performing arts which is recognised through the school's achievement of the Artsmark Award. Recent school productions have included dramatisations of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, *Oliver Twist* by Lionel Bart and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare. The last of these was performed in the school grounds; their natural beauty enhancing the audience's picnics and appreciation of Shakespeare's fantastic reality of the fairy world and its happenings.

The school has a proud tradition of music showcased throughout the year in a series of calendared events. There is a variety of choirs, orchestras and musical ensembles to interest musicians of all abilities and tastes.



There are also subject specific clubs and societies with some that are cross-curricular such as the Debating Society. The school's diverse programme of extra-curricular activities also gives the girls opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Educational visits during and outside of the school day extend opportunities for learning and therefore personal development. These include visits to museums, art galleries, the theatre, foreign language journeys abroad and history, geography, religious studies and science fieldwork in the UK and abroad.

Equal in popularity and educational value, the school year ends each summer term with a programme of on and off site activity and visits on planned Activity Days.

We are all always learning

## LEARNING AND TEACHING

In Years 7-11, students are organised into seven mixed ability form groups of 25 or 26 students. This supports each girl to benefit from individual attention.

Teaching is largely in mixed ability groups. Mathematics is taught in sets from Year 7 and modern foreign languages are taught in sets from Year 8. Talented linguists take up French in Year 8, all girls having started Spanish in Year 7. Information Technology is delivered through discrete subject lessons as well as through other subject areas.

Quality First Teaching is our priority; staff benefit from a planned programme of continuing professional development to model innovative and rigorous practice. Learning and teaching are closely and systematically monitored to ensure girls are supported to achieve their best and secure the highest outcomes.

A variety of learning and teaching strategies are used to engage and stimulate learning and the learning experience is continually developed in response to systematic data checks on potential, prior attainment and student learning needs. In this way the school ensures maximum intellectual challenge for each student, regardless of ability or educational needs; as a result, students make excellent progress.





## Looking to the future

# SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form provision is an additional strength of the school. All students make progress beyond that which their prior GCSE attainment might dictate and achieve at the highest level in their A Level examinations. The majority of our girls choose to progress to higher education; the impressive destinations list of Russell Group universities includes Oxbridge colleges.

The Sixth Form centre, with dedicated social and conscientious study areas, is a friendly, lively environment with a strong ethos of hard work. The Sixth Form offers students a high quality education. This is coupled with support to enable the girls to further discover and enhance their unique talents and strengths. As a result, our girls develop as independent, confident and responsible adults.

All students have an experienced Pastoral Mentor who provides personalised, individual support, through information, advice and guidance. The school ensures girls follow a coherent programme of study that will enrich their life and also best support their chosen progression route after Sixth Form. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of the rich educational and social opportunities offered. Work experience and summer internships take place in Year 12.

Sixth Form students mentor younger girls and support curriculum areas according to their interests and strengths. This ensures the connection between the Sixth Form and main school year groups, providing aspiration and insight to Sixth Form life for younger girls. At the same time there is opportunity to provide service to the school community, a valuable learning experience for later life.

Sixth Form students have opportunity for leadership beyond those opportunities which exist in the main school year groups, such as Form Leader and School Council Representative roles. The school's Head Girl and two Deputies are Sixth Formers. They represent the school at appropriate occasions throughout the school year and also lead on a number of annual, enterprise and pastoral projects such as the Year 7 Team Building day and the Christmas Revue. There are also leadership opportunities as Charity Officers, supporting the school's links with local and national projects such as the school's sponsorship of a room for homeless young people at Centrepont. The school's Community Officer, another Sixth Form student, has a leadership role to promote sustainability, recycling, an eco friendly environment and the maintenance of the school's beautiful grounds. The Community Officer leads the Eco Council. The Sixth Form supports Arts and Media throughout the school through the leadership role of Arts and Media Officer. Recent involvement in Arts and Media included set design for the Rock Challenge event. Students are able to demonstrate independence through the roles of Common Room Officers who work hard to maintain the appropriate ethos for relaxation as well as for study.

The Sixth Formers produce their own monthly newsletter. They play an active role in the Global Student Forum where they have opportunity to hear about and discuss spiritual, moral and cultural issues that underlie global citizenship. Sixth Form students are also involved in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project which provides opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau and pass on learning. We are also proud to be involved with the Women of the Future Ambassadors Programme. Every year, a group of Year 13 students are invited to attend the prestigious reception for the award winning, inspiring women from diverse industries, Women of the Future.



“The school’s provision for spiritual, social, moral and cultural development is a strength of the school....students leave the school as confident, articulate young adults.”

Ofsted



### The Association

## QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GIRLS' SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Association, QEGSA, is the school's Parents' Association. It provides one of the links in communication between the school, governors and families. As well as supporting the school through fund raising, the Association also gives parents the opportunity to meet one another through the various social events it organises throughout the course of the school year.

Membership for families is automatic and active involvement is encouraged.

Through its fund raising activities to increase its Development Fund, QEGSA has successfully financed a number of projects within the school. School minibuses, picnic areas in the grounds, ICT equipment and redevelopment of the school Library are all examples of the Association's successful fund raising activities.



### The Guild

## QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GIRLS' SCHOOL GUILD

The Guild is an association for former students and staff. It has existed since 1927 and continues to flourish. It provides regular newsletters for school alumni together with a platform for maintaining contact and networking. The Guild also hosts an annual Commemoration Lunch in May which is always well attended by alumni from recent years as well as those who studied and worked at the school some time ago.

The strong and continued membership of the guild is testament to both the enduring friendships developed by the girls at school, to their enduring fondness for the school and to their high regard for the school's contribution to their lifelong development and education.





“The students experience a rich and varied extra-curricular provision, from attending the theatre to visits to other countries, to support their learning. These opportunities contribute well to students’ personal development.”



## Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

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